

Dr. William Currie House
271 South Fifth Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

HABS No. PA-191

HABS
PA
51-PHILA,
240-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office Design and Construction
120 South Third St., Philadelphia 6, Pa.

DR. WILLIAM CURRIE HOUSE
271 South Fifth Street, Philadelphia 6, Pa.

Owner - Demolished October 1957. Last owner U.S. Government,
part of Independence National Historical Park Project

Date of Erection - 1811
Ref. Philadelphia Assurance Co. Survey for Pol. 3180,
Dec. 10, 1811, specifies as a new house.

Date of viewing - September 30 - October 5, 1957

Description - Plan - see appended Fire insurance survey

Elevations -

Front - Flemish bond brick

Ground floor completely removed
Second floor with three windows, double
sash with 6 lights each. Stone lintels
with diagonal corners. Elaborate
keystones with beading in center
and rosette and flange on either side.
It appears that the keystones were
carved separately and dowelled onto
the flat lintel. Several have come
off and the dowel marks are
visible.

Third floor windows are similar but
smaller. The wood framing of the
windows on the exterior was by two
three quarter rounds with a flat strip
on the inside edge.

Cornice now covered with tin.
Gable roof with ridge parallel to
front. Arched dormer in front. Ridge
dormer behind.

Back more alteration in openings and
a door added, on third floor to give
access to fire escape.

Agnes A. Gilchrist
Architectural Historian
EODC National Park Service

Philadelphia Assurance Co.

SURVEY of Doctr. William Currie's new three Story brick House situate No. 119 on the East side of Fifth between Prune & Spruce streets. Front 23 feet. Depth 40 feet. First Story 2 Rooms, Neat Mantles, Surbase, Washboards & Windows cased. Marble to the chimnies, Stucco Cornice. Entry 1 Near arch Reeded Pilasters, Venetian Doors & fan. Surbase & Washboards, Stucco Cornice, Arch head front door, Neat flat frontispiece, plain Coloms. Second Story 2 Rooms, similar to first story. Third Story, 3 Rooms, 2 plain Mantles, Washboards, Closets & windows cased, 1 flight common winding Stairs. Garret 2 Rooms, Not plaistered Trap door, 1 Arch-head dormar window front 12 lights, glass 10 by 12 inches & 1 do back square 12 lights, glass 9 by 11 inches. In the Entry are 2 flights open newell mahogany rampt handrail Stairs. Close string. half rails & pilasters. Kitchen below as customary, floor heart pine boards. Common strait stairs. 2 floors narrow heart pine other floors narrow white pine boards. Glass 108 lights 11 by 17, 60 do. 11 by 12 & 24 do 10 by 12 inches. Stud & board partitions. Materials good & well built. party walls 9 inches. Brick Ash-hole. No buildings adjoining. Access back for Engines. Water plenty.

September 1811

On the Western Moiety	\$1000			
Eastern do	<u>1000</u>	\$2000 @ 3 pr Ct.	\$60.-	
			<u>6.-</u>	66.-

Policy & incidental expenses

Paid John B. Palmer treasurer, December 10th, 1811

Policy No. 3180 No. 1766